



RF



ORANGE COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

VOL. LXVII NO. 2

PO Box 3454, Tustin, CA 92781

February 2026

The Prez Sez...

By Dan KI6X



Wow! Again, a great Field Day event. This was the lesser of the two "Field Days", Winter Field Day, but it was great fun. We reduced some of the effort since we have less participants and maybe a little less motivation. From the preliminary scores though, we are expecting to still be #1 in the results when they officially come out. We also have ideas to even improve on that for next year without making it too much more of an effort. I really appreciate Ron, W6WG, leading the effort with Tim, N6GP, assisting greatly in the planning, logging, and scoring details.

We also had dedicated station captains to make sure each station was ready and able and operators on-call. It was also special to have Rick, N6NH, cooking for us. His experience with other groups he has fed showed, and it was great having fresh food. And if you can believe it, it is actually already time to start preparing for summer Field Day which is the end of June. Be prepared!

It is still the renewal period for 2026 club dues. You will see the info elsewhere in this issue. You can go to the link and pay via PayPal, or go there and fill out the form and say you are bringing your dues to the meeting (Feb 20) or mail them in. We do save the PayPal fees when paid directly.

Many more exciting things are planned in the coming year. Keep reading the RF and the emails from the club and check out the website for all the latest information.

I am a first-time grandfather to a granddaughter in Minnesota (the WI, IA border area). Thus, the picture is from last month while visiting a couple days after being born (decent weather, then very cold and sometimes snowy during the short time!).

Dan Violette, KI6X
President

NEXT GENERAL MEETING

Doug Millar
K6JEY

Presents
"Test Gear for Hams
On a Budget"

February 20th, 2026, at 7pm
at the

American Red
Cross

Orange County Chapter
Santa Ana, Room 208

NEXT BOARD MEETING

Saturday, March 7th, 2026

See www.w6ze.org for more info

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ARRL Awards Appointee

Arnie Shatz, N6HC
(714) 573-2965
n6hc@w6ze.org

Monthly Events

Membership Meetings*

Time: 7:00 PM
When: 3rd Friday of each Month
Red Cross Orange County, Room 208
600 N Parkcenter Dr, Santa Ana
(Replaced by the Christmas Party
in December.)

Board Meetings

First Saturday of each Month
*Board will handle Club business now
IN-PERSON.*

Club Nets (Listen for W6ZE)

10M ~ 28.375 MHz SSB

Wed- 7:30 PM - 8:30 PM
Net Control: Corey, KE6YHX
Alternate Net Control: AJ, KN6WNO

2M ~ 146.55 MHz Simplex FM

Wed- 8:30 PM - 9:00 PM
Net Control: Corey, KE6YHX
Alternate Net Control: AJ, W6OTO
Echolink Node: KK6TRC-L

75M ~ 3.883 MHz LSB

Tue @ 8:00 PM
Net Control: Corey, KE6YHX

Other Nets

**Catalina Amateur
Repeater Association (CARA)**
147.090 MHz (+0.600 MHz) No PL
Monday - Friday
9:00AM & 9:00PM
Prg. Director. Tom W6ETC
COME JOIN US

OCARC 2026 DUES:

*Membership period is:
1 January to 31 December*

Individual New or Renewal: \$30
Family New or Renewal: \$45
Teen New or Renewal: \$15

***New Member Dues** are prorated
quarterly and includes a badge:*
Additional Badges¹ \$3

Use one of our interactive online forms
to calculate current prices, join, renew, or
order badges:

<https://www.w6ze.org/FormsShortcut.html>

¹ \$3 or less + mailing. See form.

OCARC Membership Renewal 2026

Membership Renewal for 2026 is now open and can be made
online by going to

<https://www.w6ze.org/MemberForms/RenewForm.html#a2rf>

It's Quick and Easy!!!

All club dues info is at: <https://www.w6ze.org/clubdues.html>

February Speaker Spotlight

Doug Millar, K6JEY

“Test Gear for Hams in 2026”



Doug, K6JEY (formerly KN6JEY, WB0NST, ZL2JEY), is a prominent amateur radio operator, educator, and expert in RF metrology and microwave communications. Licensed since 1957, he is well-known for his work in Earth-Moon-Earth (EME) communication, mentoring, and contributions to technical literature.

Background and Professional Life

- **Early Career:** Licensed in 1957 as KN6JEY in Redondo Beach, California.
- **Professional Background:** Holds an EdD in Educational Technology and is a semi-retired professor, often referred to as a "teacher of teachers".
- **Metrology Expert:** Served as an ARRL Technical

Advisor in Metrology and wrote the 26th chapter of the *ARRL Handbook* on Test Equipment and Measurement. He also consulted for Shafer Engineering in RF power measurement during the 1970s.

- **Mentoring and Astronomy** – Doug has taken a group of students to the Owens Valley Radio Observatory (OVRO) about once a year.

Amateur Radio Interests

- **EME (Moon Bounce):** Active in EME since 1990, specializing in setting up 144 MHz and 1,296 MHz stations, often operating from his driveway.
- **Microwaves & High Frequency:** Experienced in operations up to 122 GHz, including 1296MHz (starting in 1962) and modern millimeter-wave, as well as HF CW and AM.
- **Boat Anchors:** Enjoys restoring and operating older AM radio equipment.
- **Technical Contribution:** Featured on the QSO Today podcast and Ham Radio Workbench, sharing knowledge on SDR, measurement techniques, and practical station building.

Doug will be presenting various types of test equipment that you should consider for your shack. He presents many options for hams like us on a budget. Bring your volt ohm meter to try out on his calibrated resistor, and see how far you are off!

RadioActivity

February / March 2026

Upcoming Activities:

FEBRUARY

- ***CQ WW WPX / RTTY** 0000 UTC Saturday Feb. 14 through 2359 UTC Sunday Feb. 15
- ***ARRL International DX Contest CW:** 0000 UTC Sat. Feb 21 through 2359 UTC Sunday Feb. 22
- ***CQ WW 160 Meter SSB:** 2200 UTC Friday Feb. 23 through 2200 UTC Sunday February 25
- **North American QSO Party/RTTY:** 1800 UTC Sat. Feb 27 through 0559 UTC Sunday March 1

MARCH

- ***ARRL International DX SSB Contest:** 0000 UTC Saturday March 7 through 2359 UTC Sunday March 8.
- ****North American Sprint / RTTY:** 0000 UTC through 0359 UTC Sunday March 15
- ***CQ WW WPX Contest / SSB:** 0000 UTC Saturday March 28 through 2359 UTC Sunday March 29

* Indicates club entries are accepted

** Indicates team entries are accepted

Note: When submitting logs for ARRL Contests indicate your club affiliation as "Orange County ARC"

State QSO Parties

- **Vermont QSO Party:** 0000 UTC Saturday February 7 through 2359 UTC Sunday Feb. 8
- **Minnesota QSO Party:** 1400 through 2400 UTC Saturday February 7
- **South Carolina QSO Party:** 1500 UTC Saturday February 28 through 0159 UTC Sunday March 1
- **North Carolina QSO Party:** 1500 UTC Sunday March 1 through 0100 UTC Monday March 2
- **Oklahoma QSO Party:** 1500 UTC Saturday March 14 to 0200 UTC Sunday March 15 and 1400 UTC to 0200 UTC Sunday March 16
- **Idaho QSO Party:** 1600 UTC Saturday March 14 to 0400 UTC Sunday March 15 and 1500 UTC to 2100 UTC Sunday March 15
- **Wisconsin QSO Party:** 1800 UTC Sunday March 15 to 0100 UTC Monday March 16

- **Virginia QSO Party:** 1400 UTC Saturday March 21 to 0400 UTC Sunday March 22 and 1200 UTC to 2400 UTC Sunday March 22

Repeating Activities:

- **Phone Fry** Every Tuesday night at 0230 UTC to 0300 UTC
- **SKCC Weekend Sprintathon** (Straight Key CW) on the first weekend of the month after the 6TH of the month. 1200 UTC Sat. to 2359 UTC Sunday.
- **SKCC Sprint** (Straight Key CW) 0000 UTC to 0200 UTC on the 4th Tuesday night (USA) of the month.
- **CWops** Every Wednesday 1300 UTC to 1400 UTC 1900 UTC to 2000 UTC and Thursday 0300 UTC to 0400 UTC
- **ICWC Medium Speed Test:** (CW, 25WPM Max.) Every Monday 1300 UTC to 1400 UTC, 1900 UTC to 2000 UTC and Tuesday 0300 UTC to 0400 UTC
- **K1USN Slow Speed Test:** (CW, 20WPM Max.) Every Sunday night at 0000 UTC to 0100 UTC Monday

OCARC Club Nets:

- **75 Meter Net:** Every Tuesday night at 8:00 pm to 8:30 pm Local Time. SSB 3.883 MHz
- **10 Meter Net:** Every Wednesday night at 7:30 pm to 8:30 pm Local Time. SSB 28.375 MHz
- **2 Meter Net:** Every Wednesday night at 8:30 pm to 9:30 pm Local Time. FM Simplex 146.55 MHz

Links:

- [ARRL Contest Calendar](#)
- [VOACAP Online for Ham Radio](#)
- [WA7BNM Contest Calendar](#)

Send an email to Ron W6WG, w6wg@w6ze.org to have your favorite activity or your recent RadioActivity listed in next month's colum.

New OCARC Members 2026

Let's Welcome our latest batch of HAMS to the group

JANUARY 2026

KJ6ZEY Chris Chubbuck

AA6RC Morgan Fine

KK6OYR Gregorio Valdivia

K6QQP Randy Poth

N6IRN Sepehr Sahraian

KM6RTE Scott MacGillivray

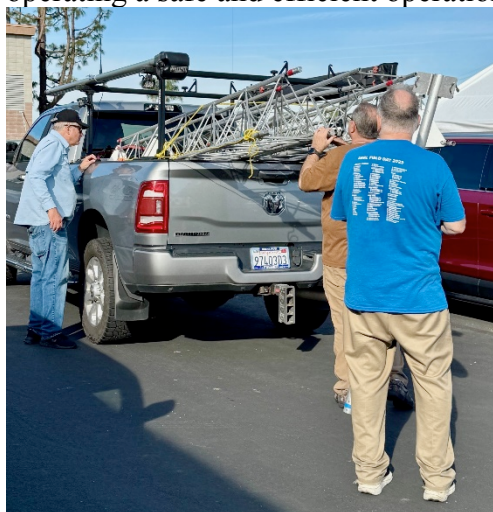
KO6LJY Josh Berk

OCARC Membership Director
Ron W6WG, membership@w6ze.org

Winter Field Day



The 2026 Winter Field Day was a success in every way, the fun, the camaraderie, the learning experience, the weather and lastly the score. WFD 2026 was the tenth time OCARC has put the W6ZE call on the air. With the experience learned from the previous years we have been able to maintain our position on the leader board while operating a safe and efficient operation.



There are many people to be thanked for their contributions. To start with Tin N6GP, Tim N6TMT, Debbi W7UOX, Nathaniel KO6HKD and Randy K6QQP who help to move the club equipment from storage to the site and back. Bob AA6PW who brought his tri-bander to the site and helped with setup and tear down, even though he wasn't able to participate this year. Helping with antenna assembly were Willy N6OKU, Michael KO6FAR, John N6GTQ, Jonathan KO6JOB, Joe KM6SVV, Fred W0PE, Harold KO6HRN, Albert N6ACG, VJ NA6VJ, Dana K6NR, Dan KI6X, Milt N6MG and Tom AK6GR. AJ W6OTO, Sophia KO6LLT and Michael KO6FAR helped with security Friday and Saturday night. Dave N3BKV handled the satellite station to give us 3 multipliers. Most people named were at the site Friday, Saturday and Sunday doing multiple chores.



Special thanks to Janet KL7MF who helps in so many ways and Rick N6NH who went to so much effort to prepare Saturday lunch and dinner and Sunday breakfast, thank you. Also, Julian N3JF who stopped by to shoot the video.



Total Contacts = 2,352					
Total Points = 3,055					
Operating Period: 2026/01/24 16:09 - 2026/01/25 21:59					
Total op time (breaks > 30 min deducted): 23:16:19					
Total op time (breaks > 60 min deducted): 23:47:42					
Avg Qs/Hr (breaks > 30 min deducted): 101.1					
Total Contacts by Band and Mode:					
Band	CW	Phone	Dig	Total	%
---	--	----	---	-----	---
40	62	84	15	161	7
20	224	630	27	881	37
15	206	734	38	978	42
10	122	191	9	322	14
2	0	6	0	6	0
70	0	4	0	4	0
---	--	----	---	-----	---
Total	614	1,649	89	2,352	100

All of this support was needed to give our operators stations capable of producing what we believe is the top score of the event. Together we worked CW, SSB, FM, Digital and Satellite modes with 2 tri-banders, 40m dipole, 40m wire beam and vertical antennas. Bands covered were 40m, 20m, 15m, 10m, 2m, 220MHz and 70cm.



My personal thanks to everyone who made this an especially successful Winter Field Day.
Ron W6WG



Amateur Radio License Testing Available!

W6ZE offers license exam sessions before our general meeting at the same location at 5:30 PM new licensees and upgrades. The cost is \$15.

Requests for testing should be sent to Ken Simpson, w6kos@w6ze.org, or by calling 714-651-6535.





Equipment for Sale



As a reminder, we have an up-to-date For Sale section on the W6ZE website. Many good items are available at this time. Go to W6ZE.ORG and towards the bottom left you'll see "For Sale" or see hyperlink below

[OCARC For Sale Page](#)



Recent Listing

- Homebrew 4-1000A amplifier, extra tube, many great parts inside. Open to discuss cost.
- Many 20M beam parts (aluminum parts really). In addition, a prop pitch rotator motor.
- Other stuff from homebrewing in the 60's etc. also available.

Contact: Curtis Clark, WA6RLP, 714-639-9927 (lives between Lake Havasu and Tustin).

Massive Hoard of W6ZE Hunter QSOs Discovered on POTA Website

By Tim Goeppinger, N6GP

We had no idea. Year after year OCARC has been doing impressive field days, both in Winter and in Summer. Our field day process is a well-oiled machine. Everyone knows their job in setup, operating and tear-down. Unknown to us, we were achieving something really big.

A couple weeks ago, when I was submitting our Winter Field Day log for scoring, a thought went off in my curious mind. “I wonder how many POTA QSOs we are making at our field days? I bet we have a hundred or more!”, I said to myself. On a lark I created an account for W6ZE at the pota.app site. After a slight technical glitch, and some great support from the POTA website, I finally made it in.

I could not believe my eyes, and I was blown away to see 926 QSOs in our Hunter Log,, stretching all the way back to 1995 ! Furthermore, I was shocked that 80 out of our 2300 QSOs in Winter Field Day 2026 was with POTA stations!

It is certain that we have earned over a dozen awards from POTA. Do we have Worked All States? The Awards section updates only once a day, and it has not processed yet. Next month I will give a rundown on what awards we have achieved.

We all did this together! Is it now time to do a W6ZE POTA Activation?

Hunter Log

P2P Only: No ▾

 Date Range

Search

	Date/Time	Station	Operator	Worked	Band	Mode	Location	Park
Hunter	2026-01-25 21:57	W7DZ	W7DZ	W6ZE	20M	PHONE (SSB)	US-AZ	US-1053 Boyce Thompson Arboretum State Park
Hunter	2026-01-25 21:38	W7ONO	W7ONO	W6ZE	20M	PHONE (SSB)	US-NV	US-4578 Pony Express National Historic Trail
Hunter	2026-01-25 21:38	W7ONO	W7ONO	W6ZE	20M	PHONE (SSB)	US-NV	US-4566 California National Historic Trail
Hunter	2026-01-25 21:38	W7ONO	W7ONO	W6ZE	20M	PHONE (SSB)	US-NV	US-4391 Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest
Hunter	2026-01-25 21:08	W2H	KI7OEK	W6ZE	15M	PHONE (SSB)	US-OR	US-4384 Siuslaw National Forest
Hunter	2026-01-25 21:01	W9TCV	W9TCV	W6ZE	15M	PHONE (SSB)	US-FL	US-1869 Fort Clinch State Park
Hunter	2026-01-25 20:58	K6BBQ	K6BBQ	W6ZE	20M	PHONE (SSB)	US-CA	US-1138 China Camp State Park
Hunter	2026-01-25 20:35	W6OGX	W6OGX	W6ZE	20M	PHONE (SSB)	US-CA	US-0754 Rosie the Riveter WWII Home Front National Historical Park
Hunter	2026-01-25 20:34	W2H	W9MPX	W6ZE	20M	PHONE (SSB)	US-OR	US-4384 Siuslaw National Forest
Hunter	2026-01-25 20:29	K0TML	K0TML	W6ZE	15M	PHONE (SSB)	US-MN	US-0359 Fergus Falls Wetland Management District
Hunter	2026-01-25 20:28	W9SNH	W9SNH	W6ZE	15M	PHONE (SSB)	US-WI	US-9805 Mound View State Trail
Hunter	2026-01-25 20:06	KD9YWG	KD9YWG	W6ZE	15M	PHONE (SSB)	US-WI	US-4238 Ice Age National Scenic Trail
Hunter	2026-01-25 20:06	KD9YWG	KD9YWG	W6ZE	15M	PHONE (SSB)	US-WI	US-11935 La Buddie Creek State Fish and Wildlife Area
Hunter	2026-01-25 19:35	KJ5CTS	KJ5CTS	W6ZE	15M	PHONE (SSB)	US-KS	US-2341 Kaw River State Park
Hunter	2026-01-25 18:41	W5SAR	W5SAR	W6ZE	15M	PHONE (SSB)	US-SC	US-3904 Longleaf Pine Heritage Preserve Wildlife Management Area
Hunter	2026-01-25 18:20	VE2CBS	VE2GT	W6ZE	15M	PHONE (SSB)	CA-QC	CA-2266 Parc Pierre-Arpin Recreation Park
Hunter	2026-01-25 18:10	KF0QGT	KF0QGT	W6ZE	20M	PHONE (SSB)	US-CO	US-7490 Pawnee National Grassland

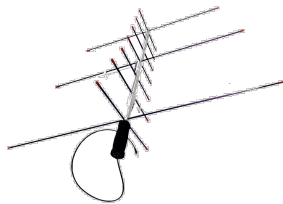
Figure 1 A Few QSOs from the W6ZE POTA Log



OCARC Equipment Loan Program

Did you know OCARC has ham equipment set aside for our members?! We have a combination of club owned equipment and member owned equipment that is accessible for you to check out for a temporary project, experiment, or to test out equipment before you purchase it yourself!

Please reach out to an OCARC Board Member and tell us about your project.



OCARC BOARD MEETING MINUTES 2/7/2026

Meeting held via Zoom and called to order by President, Dan KI6X at 8:20AM. Roll call resulted in all members being present except for Publicity. It was discovered afterwards that Michael's email information was in error and has now been corrected so he will receive future notifications.

Pre-meeting conversation between Joe KM6SVV and AJ W6OTO continued regarding pick up of items from K6OGO SK station in Tustin. Joe will follow up with a phone call and coordinate with AJ after the meeting is adjourned.

Treasurer, Tim N6TMT, presented the 2025 Cash Flow report via email, showing influx of cash funds exceeding outflow for the year of \$111.57. An audit of accounts will be forthcoming soon. Payment of storage fees and insurance in December was confirmed.

Membership chairman, Ron W6WG, advised 64 renewals so far this year with more continuing to arrive. 6 new members joined the club in January.

Activities Director, Corey KE6YHX, reported a purchase of \$214.34 for various different prizes for future opportunity drawings, which will also include Bioenno batteries and Baofeng UV5R mini HTs. Next drawing will be at the February 20 meeting.

Director, AJ W6OTO, reminded all to send next newsletter submissions to him asap. March editor will be Michael KO6FAR, and April will be Dave N3BKV. No volunteers yet for May.

Dave N3BKV, has completed security hardening for the remote station portal and is waiting to hear back regarding repairs (weather delays) to the radio being used for the remote station. Dave provided a quick run through of the remote updates and screen visuals that will be seen by admins and operators.

President, Dan KI6X, reminded everyone from the Monthly Planner Review to start thinking about June Field Day. Planning should start in earnest at the March meetings.

Vice-President, Tim N6GP, confirmed our guest for the February meeting is Doug K6JEY on test equipment. Doug should have with him equipment to calibrate various types of meters members could bring that require such adjustments. Tentatively, March may be about the Disneyland Radio Club and its history from Fred W0PE and others, retired Disney employees who were active in the early years. Tim now has a source for other potential programs from the Simi Valley ARC, where he is going to be presenting a program on the Titan Missile Museum.

WINTER FIELD DAY WRAP-UP: Tim N6GP, congratulated the club on what looks to be 1st place of 2100 entries in Winter Field Day. Discussion covered various aspects, including the lower 40m antennas contributing to a lower than usual score on that band (although the lower tower/antenna height did make things easier in general), and the really nice article about the club in the OC Register.

OCARC GENERAL MEETING MINUTES 1/16/2026

General meeting held at the American Red Cross, 600 N Park Center Dr, Santa Ana, CA was called to order at 7:05PM by Vice-President, Tim N6GP, as President, Dan KI6X, was unavailable. After the Pledge of Allegiance, introductions were held with 36 in attendance, including one visitor and one new member.

Program by David Akins, N6HHR, who is the Wireless Room Mgr for the W6RO station aboard the Queen Mary in Long Beach. David recounted many interesting facts and quite the history of the Queen Mary and GB5QM, the call sign the radio operators used on her last voyage to the US. W6RO actually began operations in 1979, and all were invited to tour and apply to join the crew of operators if interested.

David's presentation ended at 7:40 and, after a 12 minute break, meeting was resumed with roll call of board members by Secretary, Janet KL7MF. All present except for President, Dan KI6X, and Publicity, Michael KO6FAR.

Very few board members reporting. Treasurer, Tim N6TMT, reminded everyone he is collecting dues. Director AJ mentioned he will be guiding publicity efforts until Michael gets going.

OLD BUSINESS:

Ron, W6WG, gave updates on the upcoming Winter Field Day effort, including a recap of the Zoom meeting that was held Tuesday 1/13, for which Albert, N6ACG, posted an AI summary. This year's effort will be scaled down to 4 stations and two 30' towers and a satellite station. Bonus points are being worked out. Debbie, W7UOX, will be transporting gear from storage to site, but help is needed for Sunday's return trip. Rick, N6NH, will be heading up the food tent. AJ, W6OTO, at least, will be staying Friday night. Reminders to bring comfy chairs, extra tarps to help ward off bright sunshine...and turn off the sprinklers!

ASK ELMER

Information was solicited and given for access to one of the OC parks regarding POTA operation.

SHOW & TELL

Milt, N6MG, demonstrated his small Begali key attached to the top of an Altoids tin wherein was constructed an electronic keyer from an old QST article.

GOOD OF THE CLUB:

Janet, KL7MF, requested and received assistance from the membership in collecting more equipment from a SK estate, as well as disassembling and removing a vertical antenna from the home of same.

Tim, N6GP, advised everyone of the upcoming January VHF contest, with information about operating, how grid squares work, and the fact that he would be actively roving and looking for contacts.

With no further business being heard, meeting was adjourned at 8:40PM.

Submitted by Janet Margelli, KL7MF, OCARC Secretary

Cash Flow	1/1/2025- 12/31/2025
INFLOWS	
Auction Income	1,637.50
Badge	6.00
Christmas Party	945.00
Donation	282.00
Dues 2025	645.00
Dues 2026	232.50
Dues, PayPal 2025	1,806.75
Dues, PayPal 2026	480.00
Interest Inc	228.25
Opp Drwg Income	1237.00
Refreshments Income	174.00
TOTAL INFLOWS	7,674.00
OUTFLOWS	
Activities Supplies	87.22
Auction Expense	973.80
Auction Flyers	59.26
Award	72.72
Badge Expense	158.17
Christmas Rest Bill	1388.31
Field Day - Equip	26.92
Field Day - Flowers	36.50
Field Day - Oil	7.51
Field Day - Propane	55.14
Field Day Rental - Tent	325.00
Flag and VE tablets	544.95
Insurance	300.00
P.O. Box Rent	188.00
PayPal Fees	153.20
Printing Brochures	265.80
Prize Expense	1259.99
Refreshments Expense	357.77
Software License	59.88
Speakers Meal Reimburse	29.29
Storage	650.00
Website	403.10
TOTAL OUTFLOWS	7,562.43
OVERALL TOTAL	111.57



The **ORANGE COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.**

RF - VOLUME 67 ISSUE 2 – February 2026

P.O. BOX 3454

TUSTIN, CA 92781-3454



***First Class Mail
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Please Expedite!***

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